GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4134
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ARTS
Bhujbal Shri Sameer

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major achievements of Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) since its inception;

(b) whether the achievements match its prescribed mandate;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) Major achievements of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) include the following:

(i) Brought out many internationally acknowledged publications on Indian arts, crafts, literature, fundamental texts in the arts, humanities and cultural heritage and philosophy;

(ii) Organized many exhibitions on specific themes in collaboration with national and international organizations;

(iii) Organized a number of national/ international seminars/ conferences/ workshops in the field of arts and culture;

(iv) Organized festivals related to different arts;

(v) Organized a large number of public lectures/lecture-cum-demonstrations, talks and memorial lectures;

(vi) In the area of Audio-visual Documentation, IGNCA has built a repository of about 4000 hours of audio recordings and more than 20,000 hours of video recordings. It has produced several films, out of which some have received the National Award. The media unit of the IGNCA has created 200 hours of television software, which was transmitted through DD-Bharati and Doordarshan. Around 66 DVDs on Art and Culture have been released by the IGNCA;

(vii) For creation of digital data base, a Cultural Informatics Lab was established in 1994. It has a digital data bank of more than 2 lakh images, about 3 lakh manuscripts, more than 200 hours of audio visual material; 50,000 pages of print material. The Kalasampada Project in the Cultural Informatics Lab of the IGNCA received Golden Icon Award for Exemplary Implementation for e-Governance Initiative under the category of 'Best Documented Knowledge and Case Study in 2005 from the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India.

(viii) Set up a Reference Library that houses over one lakh books on Art and Culture and more than 3000 rare books besides personal collections of eminent scholars comprising more than 60,000 books.
(ix) Built an archive of reprographic material, which include more than one lakh slides and 285171 manuscripts in 22511 microfilm rolls, out of which 18,246 rolls have been digitized and 17,636 rolls have been duplicated;

(x) Documented rock art in different states of India including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir. It has built an archive of more than 20,000 photographs, slides and line-drawings.

(xi) At IGNCA's initiative "Ramlila: The Traditional Performance of the Ramayana" and the "Oral traditions of the Vedas" (Vedic Chanting) got declared by UNESCO as Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Last year, IGNCA's nomination of "Ramman: religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas" was selected by UNESCO for inscription on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). IGNCA has later prepared 20 dossiers of ICH items for the second cycle of inscriptions on UNESCO's Representative List of ICH.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The achievements match its prescribed mandate as detailed below:-

(i) The main objective of the IGNCA is 'to serve as a major resource centre for the arts, especially primary material, written, oral, auditory, audio-visual, pictorial, etc.' Reply to part (a) above shows that the IGNCA has built up an impressive archive of primary material, both written and audio visual, spanning several thousand hours of documentation.

(ii) The second important objective of the IGNCA is 'to undertake research and publication programmes of reference works, glossaries, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, fundamental texts in the arts, humanities and cultural heritage.' The IGNCA has brought out more than 225 volumes of publications to fulfill this objective.

(iii) Another prime objective of IGNCA is 'to establish tribal and folk arts collection for undertaking, promoting and facilitating systematic scientific studies in this area.' The IGNCA has a cultural archive which includes not only audio and video recordings but also ethnographic objects, photographs, paintings, etc.

(iv) IGNCA has conducted several field studies about different regions of the country to carry out research on lifestyles, wisdom, tradition, folklore and art practices of diverse communities of India from eco-cultural, socio economic, and historical perspectives. Some of the important studies have been of Santhals of West Bengal and Orissa, Bhuiyans and Paiks of Orissa, Meiteis of Manipur, Angamies of Manipur, Gujars of Central Himalayas, Changpas of Ladakh, Gaddis of Himachal Pradesh, Vishvakarmas and the forest dwellers of Karnataka, Mukkuvars of Tamil Nadu, besides several others.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to parts (a) to (c) as above.